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strain; but we know that the way of solution for all social problems is through the two great forces of education and religion, school and church, more light, more heart. Let us double and redouble our efforts for broader knowledge, wiser thinking, deeper sympathy, kinder feelings. No matter what comes, let us trust to the two great commandments, God, and goodwill. Let us have faith, faith that God still lives, that justice and judgment are still the habitation of His throne; let us have hope, hope that we may be strengthened with the courage that we need to stand for the right with head erect; and let us have charity, charity for all men, high and low, rich and poor, just and unjust, charity which never faileth, which, along with trust in God, is the beginning and the triumph of wisdom."

G. H. C.

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MARTIAL THE EPIGRAMMATIST, AND OTHER ESSAYS. By Kirby Flower Smith, Late Professor of Latin in Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1921. Pp. 171.

This collection of essays, although the product of a ripe scholarship, has the higher quality of art. If the object of the classical student be indeed, as Windelband maintained, the imaginative reconstruction of ancient civilization, the general reader can here find himself transported to a glowing past and can make the acquaintance of some of its most fascinating characters. There are some pressing questions which are wisely omitted, especially in the essay on Ovid, but they give—what is more important—atmosphere, and this atmosphere will seem to the reader strangely modern. The stories of Martial, Ovid and Propertius are interesting in themselves, and in telling them the author gives us more than one glimpse into the heart of man as well as into the boudoir of woman.

Two points of style have especial interest. First, the ease and charm of the introductory paragraphs in each essay, of which as good an illustration as any is the way in which the story of Martial is introduced by a description of the little town of Bilbilis; and, second, the 'commonplaces', which are anything but commonplace. Any reader feels pleased when an author points out something in human nature, preferably in feminine psychology if he be a man, and there are certain foibles even of man that do

not displease him when put upon this plane of universality. To agree with one of such observations is like attributing to oneself some special insight; but to present them requires tact on the part of the writer. How skilfully Professor Smith has done this is apparent in the following passages taken from the essay on *Propertius: A Modern Lover in the Augustan Age*:—

“ . . . . But why did Cynthia love him? Propertius gives us two reasons—his verse and his fidelity. No doubt he had her word for it and he seems really to have believed it. But these were not her reasons; *otherwise she would not have given them.*”

“Once, upon her birthday—poor Cynthia, her birthdays were beginning to grow unwelcome—he begs her to ‘put on the dress she was wearing the first time he met her’. Someone has called this ‘a curiously feminine trait’. On the contrary, Propertius was never less feminine than here. Otherwise he would have described the dress accurately and in detail. It is true, of course, that antique fashions were less changeable than ours, yet who, pray, except one whose only recollection of a dress was the fact that the wearer was entrancingly beautiful in it—in other words, who but a man would ever dream of asking any woman to show herself in a dress five years behind the style? Nevertheless, the request is pathetic. It shows that his memories, and doubtless hers, too, were sweeter than present experience.”

A third charm of these studies is the quality of the translations; for the characters discussed were all poets themselves, and they are allowed to speak for themselves in language which preserves the poetic quality.

Of the other essays in this volume, *Pupula Duplex* is a study in folklore with a surprising outcome, and we are reminded that it is just along such lines that a part of Professor Smith's strength lay. The last essay, *Some Boyhood Reminiscences of a Country Town*, although good in parts, is somewhat below the author's level. The two which precede it, *The Classics and Our Vernacular* and *The Future Place of the Humanities in Education*, are intended as occasional pieces, but they are deserving of a better fate, and it is fortunate that they are included in this collection.

J. B. E.